

or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 25, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 26.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Security Progress of NATO Invitees
Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania,
Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia**

February 26, 2004

Dear _____:

Consistent with Condition 3(2)(A) of the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification to the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, passed on May 8, 2003, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration.

This report describes the progress of the seven NATO invitees in satisfying the security sector and security vetting requirements for membership in NATO. As the report makes clear, all seven satisfy these NATO requirements.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Pat Roberts, chairman, and John D. Rockefeller IV, vice chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Porter J. Goss, chairman, and Jane Harman, vice chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

**Remarks in a Discussion on the
National Economy in Louisville,
Kentucky**

February 26, 2004

The President. Listen, thanks for having me. I want to thank you all for coming. What we're going to do here is have a—talk about how our economy works and how good public policy out of Washington can affect peo-

ple's lives in a positive way, can encourage job growth, so people have got a hopeful future. That's what we're here to talk about. And the best way to talk about it is to have people who are actually living lives that—which have been affected by policy.

But first, I want to say some things, if you don't mind.

James Kirchdorfer, Sr. Go right ahead. [Laughter]

The President. Okay, good. [Laughter] I love the entrepreneurial spirit of America. It's one of the things that, I think, makes the country unique and strong. I love family-owned businesses. Nothing wrong with a son trying to follow in a father's footsteps. [Laughter]

I appreciate the Kirchdorfer family and employees for welcoming us here. Jim was bragging backstage about the success of this company is really based upon the fact you've got great workers, highly productive, well-motivated workers, which speaks volumes about your management style and your ability to make good decisions, like marrying your wife, Carolyn. [Laughter]

I appreciate a member of my Cabinet being here today. Elaine Chao is with us. The Senator married really well. [Laughter] So did she. Elaine, I appreciate your hard work. I want to thank very much my friend Anne Northup, who flew down with me today. We had a fascinating discussion about Kentucky. She's doing a great job. She's straightforward. She cares about people.

It's good to see the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor here. I want to thank you for coming, Governor and Governor. I appreciate you all coming. Ernie, thanks for being here. And Steve Pence, thanks, Steve.

Mr. Mayor—where's the mayor? Oh, Mr. Mayor, thanks for coming. Jerry Abramson, honored you're here. I really appreciate you taking time to be here. I want to thank you all for taking time out of your day to come and listen to this dialog.

There's a person I met at the airport I want to herald. Her name is Marina Partee. She is—thank you, Marina. She helps victims of domestic violence. See, she is a volunteer to make Louisville, Kentucky, a better place for all. She's one of those thousands of loving